Guide for Best Choices

PrOACT

Problem  Objectives  Uncertainty
Alternatives  Risk Tolerance
Consequences  Linked Decisions
Tradeoffs
“DECISION PROBLEM”

Definition: “the core or the most important matter to be decided on”
“the way you state your problem frames your decision”
Making Logical Choices

1. Shall I ask the mission Committee to consider me for the sponsorship position?

2. What if my English is not good enough to enable me to enroll in full time studies at AIIAS and I have to take additional courses in English?

3. Who will take care of my aging parents? I am their only child and they are depending on me.

Ps. James
4. How will I survive financially at AIIAS? I have heard that the cost of living in Silang is very expensive...

5. How will my family adapt to living on a multi-national campus and attending a US structured elementary school?

Ps. James
6. If I ask to be sponsored, and the committee chooses someone else, will the mission President still support me at the upcoming constituency meeting?

7. It has been 10 years since I graduated from college, will I be able to master graduate level studies?

Ps. James
8. Will I have a mission office job assignment upon completion of my degree or will I be given a remote pastoral district to serve in?

9. What Masters Program shall I take? MBA, MA or MMin?

10. What does God want me to do?
Problem
Shall I go and study?

Or

Shall I continue on as the Mission Secretary?
Specify your **Objectives**
OBJECTIVES

1. They help you determine what information to seek.
2. They help you explain your choices to others.
3. They determine the importance of a decision and how much time and effort it deserves.
“if you don’t know where you are going, any route will get you there”
Ps. James
OBJECTIVES

To obtain additional training in Management and Administration from an internationally staffed University

To be better equipped to serve the Mission in Administration

To one day teach at the University from which he graduated

To obtain an Advanced degree that is recognized inside and outside the church

To give his children the opportunity to learn English and study in an American based School curriculum

To become the Union President

To work at the Division Office

Making Logical Choices
Create Imaginative Alternative
“your decision can be no better than your best alternative”
Alternatives

1. Check with the government University in the city where he lives to see what courses are available in Administration or Management at the Graduate Level.

2. Contact the Academic Dean at AIIAS to see what test he should take to determine his proficiency in English.
1. Ask AllAS if a DLC is being planned for students interested in leadership within the Union

4. Discuss with this wife how she feels about uprooting the family and moving to a new and different place
1. Find out if the aging parents are willing to relocate to AIIAS with the rest of the family. Is the accommodation large enough to care for the extended family?

6. Leave his wife and children at home and move to AIIAS to study...
“Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today”
Understand the **Consequences**
“Be sure you really understand the consequences of your alternatives before you make a choice.

If you don’t, you surely will afterwards, and you may not be very happy with them.”
Let’s look at two alternatives:

#5 Find out if the aging parents are willing to relocate to Allias with the rest of the family. Is the accommodation large enough to care for the extended family?

#2 Contact the academic dean at Allias to see what test he should take to determine his proficiency in English.
Ways to Evaluate Consequences

1. Try before you buy! If you need to buy a new vehicle, try one out for a week. If a friend has a motor cycle and you have never owned one, ask him to lend you his for a week.

1. Search for hard data on the alternative. Many times this is more objective than some one’s word or suggestion on the matter.
...ways to evaluate consequences

1. Use Experts. They are called experts because they usually know more about a subject than we do.

1. Address major uncertainties head on. Many times you really won’t know what the consequences of a particular choice will be. However don’t just ignore them because they will come back to you in the future.
Grapple with your Tradeoffs
Choices:

- Kill the rooster and eat him
- Give the rooster to someone else to eat
- Take the rooster to the veterinarian and have his vocal cords removed
- Trade the rooster to a neighbor for a hen
- Move to a different house where there would be no neighbors close by who would be disturbed by the rooster
Clarify Your Uncertainties

Ask these 4 Questions:
1. What are the Key Uncertainties?
2. What are the possible outcomes of these uncertainties?
3. What are the chances of occurrence of each possible outcome?
4. What are the consequences of each outcome?
Problem 6

If I ask to be sponsored, and the committee chooses someone else, will the mission President still support me at the upcoming constituency meeting?

Ps. James
Think hard about your

Right level of risk “for you”
“The more likely the outcomes with better consequences and less likely the outcomes with poorer consequences, the more desirable the risk profile for you”
Basic Principle of Risk Tolerance

“the more desirable the better consequences of a risk profile relative to the poorer consequences, the more willing you will be to take the risks necessary to
Problem 8

Will I have a mission office job assignment upon completion of my degree or will I be given a remote pastoral district to serve in?

Ps. James
Assign Percentage

1. Will have a position at the completion of studies

1. Will be assigned to a remote pastoral District

3. Will be given a mission office job assignment
Consider **Linked Decisions**

Six Steps in Analyzing LD:

1. Understand the basic decision problem
2. Identify ways to reduce critical uncertainties
3. Identify future decisions linked to the basic decision
Making Logical Choices

...six steps in analyzing LD

1. Understand relationships in linked decisions
2. Decide what to do in the basic decisions
3. Treat later decisions as new decision problems
How will my family adapt to living on a multi-national campus and attending a US structured elementary school?
THANK YOU